

I remember good times. I remember bad times. I remember times where I barely escaped by the skin of my teeth. You never forget. I remember, and there are things I wish I had done or didn't do. I hope that as a whole, Alaskans remember what we did, because as a Nation, we are losing our remembrance of World War II.

Well, Father Elliott never let us forget our veterans, whether it was our veterans who fought honorably in World War II or the returning men and women who are coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Father Elliott's history after the war took him to Alaska. He attended Virginia Theological Seminary. He intended to serve as a missionary in India. There wasn't a slot available there for him, but there was one in Alaska. Father Elliott ended up in Alaska. His first stop was at St. Mark's Episcopal Mission in Nenana, a church and boarding home for Native children. Then he went to St. Barnabas's Mission in Minto and St. Stephen's Mission in Fort Yukon. Over time, his responsibilities expanded to missions throughout the Gwich'in communities on the Upper Yukon—communities such as Eagle, Circle, Chalkyitsik, Arctic Village, Venetie, Beaver, and Stevens Village. To cover this very large territory, Father Elliott would often travel by dogsled. He became a pilot and flew his own aircraft. I think he called his yellow plane the "Drunken Canary."

Father Elliott was truly "as unique as Alaska itself," in the words of one of his parishioners.

His duties in the villages were hardly romantic. Father Elliott was forced to confront the dual scourge of alcohol abuse and suicide and the loss of faith that comes along with despair. As a member of a joint Federal-State Commission on Alaska Natives in the 1990s, he encouraged a shift in government policies toward Native people. Instead of the government doing for Native people and doing things perhaps poorly, he believed the Native people themselves needed to be heard. He was an incredible advocate in so many ways.

He was more than your village priest, though. In various villages, Father Elliott would come in and do whatever task was needed.

In an article in our local newspaper, the Alaska Dispatch, just a couple of days ago, it was reported this way:

[Father] Elliott did every kind of task—he was a policeman, a tax collector, a school teacher, a delivery person and a messenger. When he arrived in one village to do church services, he first vaccinated everyone for typhoid. He usually carried penicillin in his sled bag, giving anyone who needed it an injection in the rump, including any sick dogs in his team.

Now, that is an individual who cared for everyone in whatever the capacity.

After being in the remote interior of the State, Father Elliott's next assignments were in relatively urban corners of Alaska. In 1958, Father Elliott moved to Southeast Alaska where he served at St. John's Church in Ketchikan. In 1962, he settled in as rector at

All Saints Episcopal Church, a beautiful church in downtown Anchorage. Father Elliott officially retired in 1990 when he reached the age of 70 in accordance with the church rules.

That might be the end of the story there, but it is hardly the story for Father Elliott. Two years after his retirement, All Saints needed a replacement priest, and he came out of retirement to serve as something called a priest in charge and continued to serve until earlier this year.

Father Elliott was one of those who was everywhere. He was at every social gathering. He was at every wedding, every funeral, baptisms, everything in between. He would visit those in the hospital. At times he would stay all night. He had this uncanny sense of knowing when they were in the hospital because he was very often the first one to visit.

Father Elliott ended up in the hospital earlier this year. He was down with pneumonia. It was a bit ironic. I went to visit him. He was really pretty grumpy. He was grumpy because he knew the hospital in and out, but he didn't like being the one who was confined in the bed. He was grumpy because he had places to go and people to see. As I recall, he had a funeral to go to and a wedding to go to, and when he got out of the hospital, he resumed that active schedule.

I have remarked often that Father Elliott lived every day to its fullest, from the time he woke up in the morning until the time he went to bed at night, and his is a life well lived.

Last week, Father Elliott passed away, and that, I am afraid, is the end of his story—at least the end of the story as we know it here on this Earth. Father Elliott served his church, his Nation, and his community with great distinction, and his was indeed a life that was well lived.

I have so many wonderful memories of my friend Father Norman Elliott, and that will sustain me, but I cannot help but observe that with Father Elliott's passing, another of Alaska's great and mighty trees has fallen.

I will be in Alaska this weekend and on Monday will have an opportunity to join with Alaskans from around the State in paying a tribute to a man who truly lived a life of service to others, who truly cared in a way that goes almost beyond description. I stand with my colleagues and ask that we join in prayers for Father Elliott and the family of truly a great Alaskan.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wasn't expecting to be on the floor when the Senator from Alaska was talking about Father Elliott. What a great story, and what a great life he lived. I am glad I happened to be here and had a chance to listen.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CORNYN. Just a few moments ago, the Senate passed a piece of legislation that some might ask: Well, what is the big deal? The Water Resources Development Act—what we call around here WRDA by the acronym—this bill is enormously important for States like North Dakota, places like Texas that have experienced flooding, in particular, but this bill will help us maintain and expand our infrastructure related to our most precious natural resource, and that is water.

Like I said, that might sound a little boring, not particularly interesting, but it actually has a lot of relevance to every American. Like I said last week, this legislation includes provisions that will help my constituents in Texas in a number of ways, from drought and flood protection to carving out deeper ports to enhance our ability to do international trade, but the passage of this bill serves as another example of what can happen when the Senate is actually working the way it is supposed to.

I am not going to suggest to you that just because the 2014 election gave Republicans the majority in the U.S. Senate that automatically made it possible for the Senate to begin functioning again, but the fact is, leadership does make a difference. I know it was absolutely key to Majority Leader MCCONNELL's agenda that we would actually work in the committees to build consensus on legislation, and then they would come to the floor and people would have an opportunity to offer amendments and other constructive suggestions and we would work until we built that consensus and accomplished our goal of passing legislation.

It is worth reminding our colleagues that the Senate, under Senator MCCONNELL's leadership, passed the first bicameral budget that we have passed since 2009 and the first balanced budget since 2001. Under a Republican-led Senate, all 12 appropriations bills were approved by their respective subcommittees and by the Appropriations Committee itself. As the Presiding Officer knows, the only way that happens is for the chair and the ranking member of the appropriate Appropriations subcommittee to work together on a bipartisan basis and then work with colleagues on the whole Appropriations Committee to come up with legislation they will support or that an overwhelming majority—in some cases unanimously—of the committee supports.

This is the first time since 2009 that we have actually seen all 12 appropriations bills approved by the subcommittees and then by the entire Appropriations Committee. That is the good news.

The bad news is, our Democratic colleagues wouldn't let us proceed with actually voting on those appropriations bills to get them done one at a time, in a transparent sort of way, where we would be held accountable for

what we did, and it would be open to the American people to see exactly what we were doing.

The reason we are talking about a continuing resolution this week and next is because of the filibuster of the appropriations process. It didn't have to be that way. In fact, we were on track to funding the government the way we were supposed to, bill by bill. In spite of the filibuster on the appropriations bill, we have been able to find consensus on a number of other important pieces of legislation. This is legislation that will help American families, strengthen our economy, and help keep the American people secure. Importantly, these were bills that furthered what I believe to be the appropriate philosophy of the government; that is, Washington does not always know best, and that power needs to be devolved from the Federal Government in Washington back down to the States and back down to individual citizens.

For example, we passed the first major education reform bill since No Child Left Behind, a piece of legislation called the Every Student Succeeds Act. This bill does exactly what I just described. Under the chairmanship and the leadership of Senator ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY, what this legislation did was it transferred more power with regard to public education, K–12, from Washington back to the States and back to parents and teachers—people who actually understand best what the educational needs of their students are and how to make sure they achieve their potential.

We also passed the first multiyear highway bill since 2005. Why is that important? Well, if you come from a fast-growing State like mine, a big State, the quality of highways and bridges are pretty darn important—not only important to public safety, they are important to the environment and they are important for the economy. But this is the first time we passed a multiyear highway bill since 2005. As I said, this legislation will help us maintain and build our infrastructure so we can keep up with economic and population growth and make the most of it. It will also provide certainty to our States and communities so they can actually plan for the future. As long as we were passing 6-month or yearlong Transportation bills, there was no way they could do long-term planning, which is more efficient and more cost-effective.

We also have done other important things. We passed trade promotion authority—working with the President—that defines the parameters of what Congress and the White House would agree to when it comes to trade agreements. I know “trade” has kind of become a little bit of a dirty word lately in Presidential politics, but I can tell you, in my State we see the benefits of our international trading ability every day. Six million jobs depend on binational trade with Mexico alone, and

NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which basically tied together Canada, Mexico, and the United States, has been seen as a very positive move and has created a lot of jobs and economic growth.

We also reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration—pretty darn important if you happen to fly.

We passed another piece of important legislation called the POLICE Act to support our local law enforcement officials and to make sure they get the training they need to respond to an active shooter situation—something that, sadly, more and more police find themselves confronted with these days.

We also had a tremendous vote—99 to 0—in the Senate on a bill called Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. I have said many times that sadly the profile of a victim of human trafficking is a girl between the ages of 12 and 14 years old, many of whom run away from home, only to find themselves living a life of literally modern-day slavery. This legislation was designed to make sure there were more resources available to help rescue those victims of human trafficking and to better equip law enforcement to track down their captors.

We also passed legislation that promotes a more transparent and open government and protects intellectual property rights, just to name a few.

Again, these may seem like small things in isolation, but they represent a major change in the way we do business here in the Senate—actually working together on a bipartisan basis to solve problems and to get legislation on the President's desk and have him sign it. Now, you won't read very much about that because the news covers conflict. That is just the nature of the beast. When we fight like cats and dogs, it is all over the newspapers and on the Internet and on TV, but when we actually appear to be doing the work the American people sent us here to do, frankly, it is not particularly newsworthy, sadly enough.

We have other important work that is still outstanding as the Senate continues to make progress on a conference report on the Energy Policy Modernization Act, a bill this Chamber passed months ago thanks to the leadership of Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska and Ranking Member CANTWELL. We also are close to finishing up our work on the National Defense Authorization Act. This is the major defense authorization bill that has been passed out of the Senate every year for more years than we can remember. Then the work we have to complete this week and next is to find a way to keep the government up and running and provide resources to communities to fight the Zika virus and to prevent the horrific birth defects that unfortunately are part of that disease.

I point out these accomplishments in an effort to just remind our colleagues and anybody who happens to be listening that we do try—not all the time

but most of the time—to put politics aside, to focus on results, and to try to do things that benefit the American people.

I am thankful for the leadership of the majority leader. As I said earlier, leadership matters. Senator MCCONNELL has worked hard to try to bring bills to the floor that did enjoy bipartisan support and, to the extent possible, to make sure everybody had a chance to participate in the process. It is that sort of vision and that sort of pragmatism which has brought us this record of success. I hope we continue to do that in the time we have left between now and the election and then when we return after the election to work together. I know it is tough work. It is frustrating. But it is worthwhile, and it is worth doing.

I don't see anybody ready to speak.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business, and the Senator is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

STOP TERRORIST OPERATIONAL RESOURCES AND MONEY ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of terrorism financing, especially with regard to the terrorist group ISIS, known by some as ISIL, or other terminology referring to ISIS itself.

Just days ago, we marked the 15th anniversary since the terrorist attack on our country on September 11, 2001. At the time, the United States had a fundamentally different understanding of terrorist groups, their ideologies, and their operations.

In the years since, our national security apparatus has grown and adapted, responding to evolving threats and prioritizing the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

For example, prior to 9/11, the Department of the Treasury was not as significant in our fight against terrorism as it is today. An act of Congress established the Treasury Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence in 2004. Since then, this office has grown into an essential component of our counterterrorism work. They are charged with the task of cutting off the financial resources that terrorist groups need to survive.

The terrorist group ISIS presents challenges, a whole new set of challenges. Similar to Hezbollah, ISIS is part terrorist group, part army, and part criminal syndicate fueled by a